

ARUBA TODAY

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Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



Page 8

Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

The pilot and 4 passengers of the Titan submersible are dead, U.S. Coast Guard says

By **PATRICK WHITTLE** and **HOLLY RAMER**
Associated Press

The U.S. Coast Guard says a missing submersible imploded near the wreckage of the Titanic, killing all five people on board. Coast Guard officials said during a news conference Thursday that they've notified the families of the crew of the Titan, which has been missing for several days. Debris found during the search for the vessel "is consistent with a catastrophic implosion of the vessel," said Rear Adm. John Mauger of the First Coast Guard District. "The outpouring of support in this highly complex search operation has been great appreciated. Our most heartfelt condolences go out to the friends and loved ones of the crew," Mauger said.



Continued on Page 2

This photo provided by OceanGate Expeditions shows a submersible vessel named Titan used to visit the wreckage site of the Titanic.

Associated Press



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U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Jamie Frederick, left, faces reporters as Carl Hartsfield, director and senior program manager Oceanographic Systems Laboratory, center, and Paul Hankins, U.S. Navy civilian contractor, supervisor of salvage, right, look on during a news conference, Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at Coast Guard Base Boston, in Boston.

Continued from Front

OceanGate Expeditions said in a statement that all five people on board, including company CEO Stockton Rush, are believed to be dead. Rush, Shahzada Dawood and his son Suleman Dawood, Hamish Harding, and Paul-Henri Nargeolet "have sadly been lost," OceanGate said in a statement.

OceanGate did not provide details when the company announced the "loss of life" in a statement or how officials knew the crew members perished. The Titan's 96-hour oxygen supply likely ended early Thursday.

OceanGate has been chronicling the Titanic's decay and the underwater ecosystem around it via yearly voyages since 2021. The Titan was estimated to have about a four-day supply of breathable air when it launched Sunday morning in the North Atlantic — but experts have emphasized that was an imprecise approximation to begin with and could be extended if passengers have taken measures to conserve breathable air. And it's not known if they survived since the sub's disappearance. Rescuers have rushed ships, planes and other equipment to the site of the disappearance. On Thursday, the U.S. Coast Guard said an undersea robot sent

by a Canadian ship had reached the sea floor, while a French research institute said a deep-diving robot with cameras, lights and arms also joined the operation.

Authorities have been hoping underwater sounds might help narrow their search, whose coverage area has been expanded to thousands of miles — twice the size of Connecticut and in waters 2 1/2 miles (4 kilometers) deep. Coast Guard officials said underwater noises were detected in the search area Tuesday and Wednesday.

Jamie Pringle, an expert in Forensic Geosciences at Keele University, in England, said even if the noises came from the submersible, "The lack of oxygen is key now; even if they find it, they still need to get to the surface and unbolt it."

The Titan was reported overdue Sunday afternoon about 435 miles (700 kilometers) south of St. John's, Newfoundland, as it was on its way to where the iconic ocean liner sank more than a century ago. OceanGate Expeditions, which is leading the trip, has been chronicling the Titanic's decay and the underwater ecosystem around it via yearly voyages since 2021. By Thursday morning, hope was running out that anyone on board the vessel would be found alive.

Dr. Rob Larter, a marine

geophysicist with the British Antarctic Survey, emphasized the difficulty of finding something the size of the submersible, which is about 22 feet (6.5 meters) long and 9 feet (nearly 3 meters) high.

"You're talking about totally dark environments," in which an object several dozen feet away can be missed, he said. "It's just a needle in a haystack situation unless you've got a pretty precise location."

Newly uncovered allegations suggest there had been significant warnings made about vessel safety during the submersible's development.

Broadcasters around the world started newscasts at the critical hour Thursday with news of the submersible. The Saudi-owned satellite channel Al Arabiya showed a clock on air counting down to their estimate of when the air could potentially run out.

Captain Jamie Frederick of the First Coast Guard District said a day earlier that authorities were still holding out hope of saving the five passengers onboard.

"This is a search-and-rescue mission, 100%," he said Wednesday.

Retired Navy Capt. Carl Hartsfield, now the director of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Systems Laboratory, said the sounds detected have been described as "banging noises,"

The pilot and 4 passengers of the Titan submersible are dead, U.S. Coast Guard says

es," but he warned that search crews "have to put the whole picture together in context and they have to eliminate potential man-made sources other than the Titan." Frederick acknowledged Wednesday the report of sounds was encouraging to some experts because submarine crews unable to communicate with the surface are taught to bang on their submersible's hull to be detected by sonar.

The U.S. Navy said in a statement Wednesday that it was sending a specialized salvage system that's capable of hoisting "large, bulky and heavy undersea objects such as aircraft or small vessels."

The Titan weighs 20,000 pounds (9,000 kilograms). The U.S. Navy's Flyaway Deep Ocean Salvage System is designed to lift up to 60,000 pounds (27,200 kilograms), the Navy said on its website. Lost aboard the vessel is pilot Stockton Rush, the CEO of OceanGate. His passengers are: British adventurer Hamish Harding; Pakistani businessman Shahzada Dawood and his son Suleman; and French explorer and Titanic expert Paul-Henri Nargeolet.

In the first comments from Pakistan since the Titan vanished, Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Thursday that officials have confidence in the search efforts.

"We would not like to speculate on the circumstances of this incident and we would also like to respect the wishes of the Dawood family that their privacy be respected," she said.

At least 46 people successfully traveled on OceanGate's submersible to the Titanic wreck site in 2021 and 2022, according to letters the company filed with a U.S. District Court in Norfolk, Virginia, that oversees

matters involving the Titanic shipwreck.

One of the company's first customers characterized a dive he made to the site two years ago as a "kamikaze operation."

"Imagine a metal tube a few meters long with a sheet of metal for a floor. You can't stand. You can't kneel. Everyone is sitting close to or on top of each other," said Arthur Loibl, a retired businessman and adventurer from Germany. "You can't be claustrophobic." During the 2 1/2-hour descent and ascent, the lights were turned off to conserve energy, he said, with the only illumination coming from a fluorescent glow stick.

The dive was repeatedly delayed to fix a problem with the battery and the balancing weights. In total, the voyage took 10 1/2 hours.

The submersible had seven backup systems to return to the surface, including sandbags and lead pipes that drop off and an inflatable balloon.

Nick Rotker, who leads underwater research for the nonprofit research and development company MITRE, said the difficulty in searching for the Titan has underscored the U.S.'s need for more underwater robots and remotely operated underwater vehicles.

"The issue is, we don't have a lot of capability or systems that can go to the depth this vessel was going to," Rotker said.

Nicolai Roterman, a deep-sea ecologist and lecturer in marine biology at the University of Portsmouth, England, said the disappearance of the Titan highlights the dangers and unknowns of deep-sea tourism.

"Even the most reliable technology can fail, and therefore accidents will happen. With the growth in deep-sea tourism, we must expect more incidents like this." □

Associated Press

25 million women live in states with abortion bans or tighter restrictions

By **GEOFF MULVIHILL, KIMBERLEE KRUESI and CLAIRE SAVAGE**

Associated Press

One year ago, the U.S. Supreme Court rescinded a five-decade-old right to abortion, prompting a seismic shift in debates about politics, values, freedom and fairness.

Twenty-five million women of childbearing age now live in states where the law makes abortions harder to get than they were before the ruling.

Decisions about the law are largely in the hands of state lawmakers and courts. Most Republican-led states have restricted abortion. Fourteen ban abortion in most cases at any point in pregnancy. Twenty Democratic-leaning states have protected access.

Here's a look at what's changed since the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* ruling.

LAWS HAVE BEEN ENACTED IN 25 STATES TO BAN OR RESTRICT ABORTION ACCESS

Last summer, as women and medical providers began to navigate a landscape without legal protection for abortion, Nancy Davis' doctors advised her to terminate her pregnancy because the fetus she was carrying was expected to die soon after birth.



Stephen Parlato of Boulder, Colo., holds a sign that reads "Hands Off Roe!!!" as abortion rights advocates and anti-abortion protesters demonstrate in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, in Washington.

But doctors in Louisiana, where Davis lived, would not provide the abortion due to a new law banning it throughout pregnancy in most cases.

At the same time, abortion opponents who worked for decades to abolish a practice they see as murder cheered the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* ruling. Anti-abortion groups said the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that legalized abortion nationwide was undemocratic because it prevented states from enacting bans.

"The *Dobbs* decision was a democratic victory for life that generations fought for," said E.V. Osment, a spokeswoman for Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, a major anti-abortion group. While some states scrambled to pass new restrictions, others already had enacted laws that were designed to take effect if the court overturned *Roe*. More than 25 million women ages 15 to 44, or about 2 in 5 nationally, now live in states where there are more restrictions on

abortion access than there were before *Dobbs*.

Davis got help from a fund that raises money for women to travel for abortions and went to New York for a procedure. The whole experience was heartbreaking, she said.

"A mother's love starts as soon as she knows she's pregnant. That attachment starts instantly," she said. "It was days I couldn't sleep. It was days I couldn't eat."

ABORTION ACCESS HAS BEEN PROTECTED IN 20 STATES

As some states restricted abortion, others locked in access. In 25 states, abortion remains generally legal up to at least 24 weeks of pregnancy. Twenty of them have been solidified abortion rights through constitutional amendments or laws. CHOICES Center for Reproductive Health had for decades treated patients seeking abortions in Memphis, Tennessee. After Tennessee's abortion ban kicked in last year, the clinic opened an outpost three hours away, in Carbondale, Illinois.

"They're coming from Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and even Texas," said CEO Jennifer Pepper. "But now they're having to travel much farther."

THE NUMBER OF ABORTIONS IS NOT CLEAR

With lags and gaps in official reporting, the impact of the *Dobbs* ruling on the number of abortions is not clear. A survey conducted for the Society of Family Planning, a nonprofit organization that promotes research and supports abortion access, has found that the number has fallen to nearly zero in states with bans and risen in neighboring states with fewer restrictions, and on balance the number of abortions declining. □

Tennessee Republican lawmakers receive mail with 'white powder substance'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee's legislative office building in Nashville was placed on lockdown after multiple Republican leaders received what House Speaker Cameron Sexton called "a white powder substance" in the mail.

"The sixth floor has been placed on lockdown out of an abundance of caution, and hazmat teams are on scene assessing the situation," Sexton said in a statement Thursday.

An email sent to building staff on Thursday after-

noon said no is allowed to leave or enter the building until further notice.

Jennifer Easton, a spokesperson for the House Republican caucus, also issued a statement saying that the letters "contained obvious threats made by a liberal activist specifically targeting Republicans."

Easton added that Homeland Security and first responders were investigating and all employees and lawmakers are safe. No injuries were immediately reported. The lockdown Cordell Hull building

is located in downtown Nashville, where it houses lawmakers and legislative staffers, as well as the General Assembly's committee hearing rooms. The sixth floor is mostly comprised of House member offices for both lawmakers and their staffers.

The building also connects to the Tennessee Capitol's main building. While lawmakers and staffers work there all year, it's noticeably less frequented by the public when the General Assembly is out of session, which it is now. □



The Cordell Hull State Office Building stands, Jan. 8, 2020, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

U.S. safety agency to require automatic emergency braking

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government will require heavy trucks and buses to include automatic emergency braking equipment within five years, the federal traffic safety agency said Thursday, estimating it will prevent nearly 20,000 crashes save at least 155 lives a year.

The announcement by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration follows a similar move last month for all new passenger cars and light trucks. The actions represent the traffic safety agency's latest efforts to regulate electronic systems that take on certain tasks that drivers themselves have normally handled.

NHTSA has been reluctant in the past to impose such regulations, saying the technology would change during the time it took to enact new rules.

Ann Carlson, the safety agency's chief counsel, said Thursday that automatic emergency braking systems will reduce the frequency and severity of rear-end crashes, as well as rollovers and accidents involving loss of driver con-



Motor vehicle traffic moves along the Interstate 76 highway in Philadelphia, March 31, 2021.
Associated Press

rol. "Advanced driver assistance systems like AEB have the power to save lives," she said at a news conference. The new requirement "is an important step forward in improving safety on our nation's roadways by reducing and ultimately eliminating preventable tragedies that harm Americans."

The proposed rule applies to new trucks and buses weighing at least 10,000

pounds and is expected to become final next year. The heaviest trucks those over 26,000 pounds will be required to install the braking system three years after the rule becomes final, while vehicles weighing between 10,000 and 26,000 pounds will have until 2028. AEB systems use forward-facing cameras and sensor technologies to detect when a crash is imminent. The system automatically applies the brakes if the

driver has not done so, or, if needed, applies additional braking force to supplement the driver's actions. The proposed standard would require the technology to work at speeds ranging from 6 to 50 miles per hour.

The American Trucking Association, the industry's largest lobbying group, welcomed the announcement.

"The trucking industry supports the use of proven

safety technology like automatic emergency braking," said Dan Horvath, the group's vice president of safety policy. "With NHTSA's recent regulation requiring AEB on all new passenger vehicles, this proposal for heavy duty trucks is timely and appropriate."

According to NHTSA statistics, there are about 60,000 rear-end crashes a year in which a heavy truck or bus is the striking vehicle. Once implemented, NHTSA estimates the proposed rule will prevent more than 19,000 crashes, save 155 lives and prevent nearly 9,000 injuries annually.

The agency says the rule on new passenger vehicles and light trucks will dramatically reduce rear-end crashes, saving at least 360 lives per year. It also is projected to cut injuries by at least 24,000 annually and reduce property damage. The Transportation Department, which includes NHTSA, called the proposal an important step in the broader goal of reducing roadway deaths. The number of people killed on U.S. roads declined slightly last year, to 42,795, but still represents a national crisis, the agency said. □

Personal data of more than 700,000 retired California workers and beneficiaries have been stolen

By **SOPHIE AUSTIN**
Associated Press/Report for America
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California pension officials say personal information of about 769,000 retired state employees and

other beneficiaries including Social Security numbers was among data stolen by Russian cybercriminals in the breach of a popular file-transfer application. They said they were offering impacted members two years of free credit monitoring.

The breach of the MOVEit program, discovered last month, is estimated by cybersecurity experts to have compromised hundreds of organizations globally. Confirmed victims include the U.S. Department of Energy and several other federal agencies, more than 9 million motorists in Oregon and Louisiana, Johns Hopkins University, Ernst &

Young, the BBC and British Airways.

The criminal gang behind the hack, known as ClOp, is extorting victims, threatening to dump their data online if they don't pay up. The California Public Employees' Retirement System said in a statement that a third-party vendor was breached that used MOVEit to help inform it of member deaths and validate payment eligibility.

"This external breach of information is inexcusable," CalPERS CEO Marcie Frost was quoted as saying. "Our members deserve better. As soon as we learned about what happened, we took fast action to protect

our members' financial interests, as well as steps to ensure long-term protections." Security experts say such so-called supply-chain hacks expose an uncomfortable truth about the software organizations: Network security is only as strong as the weakest digital link in the ecosystem.

The stolen data included names, birth dates and Social Security numbers and might also include names of spouses or domestic partners and children, officials said. It identified the vendor as PBI Research Services/Berwyn Group. CalPERS planned to send letters Thursday to those affected by the breach. □



The suns peaks over the California Public Employees Retirement System's building in Sacramento, Calif., on Sept. 6, 2022.
Associated Press

Foes of Myanmar's military regime applaud new U.S. sanctions

By GRANT PECK

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Opponents of Myanmar's military government applauded fresh financial sanctions imposed by the United States on the Southeast Asian nation but called Thursday for further measures to pressure its ruling generals to restore peace and democracy.

The U.S. Treasury Department announced Wednesday it was imposing the sanctions on Myanmar's Defense Ministry and two state-owned banks, the Myanma Foreign Trade Bank and the Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank.

The move freezes any assets of the sanctioned entities that are in the United States or controlled by a U.S. person. It also prohibits all transactions by U.S. persons or carried out within or transiting the United States that the targeted entities would benefit from. That would make it difficult to carry out transactions through financial institutions involving U.S. dollars. The sanctions are the latest by the Biden administration against Myanmar's military-installed government, after army overthrew the elected civilian government led



Myanmar military officers leave the venue during a parade to commemorate Myanmar's 78th Armed Forces Day in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, on March 27, 2023.

Associated Press

by Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, 2021.

The Treasury Department statement said the Defense Ministry since then has continued to import goods and material worth at least \$1 billion, including from sanctioned entities in Russia. The army's 2021 takeover prompted widespread public protests whose violent suppression by security forces triggered an armed resistance that now spans much of the coun-

try, amounting to civil war. Security forces have been accused of carrying out large-scale human rights violation to try to crush all opposition.

"To support its brutal repression across Burma, the military regime has relied on foreign sources, including sanctioned Russian entities, to purchase and import arms, dual-use goods, equipment, and raw materials to manufacture weapons," said Wednesday's

announcement from the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, OFAC. "The military regime and other designated state-owned entities have relied on state-owned financial institutions that act as the primary foreign currency exchanges in Burma to facilitate these transactions." The U.S. government refers to Myanmar by its old name, Burma.

An underground group of researchers and activists

from Myanmar said it welcomed Washington's sanctions "targeting junta-controlled banks that help sustain the junta's campaign of terror."

"However, for sanctions to be effective, far more needs to be done to systematically target the junta's financial and arms procurement networks by the U.S. and its allies, said the statement from the group, Justice for Myanmar.

It urged sanctions against Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, MOGE, "which continues to bankroll the junta's ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as the junta's network of cronies and arms brokers."

About half of Myanmar's foreign exchange earnings come from MOGE, mostly from sales of offshore natural gas.

"The military has used these banks to launder the vital revenues it strips from Myanmar's gems, jade, timber, and gas sectors," said a statement from the group. "It can use these revenues to fund massacres and other crimes against humanity while it starves the Myanmar economy of foreign currency, ramps up its military budget, and turns off the electricity." □

China formally protests Biden's depiction of its leader

By SYLVIE CORBET and ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — China said Thursday it had registered a formal protest over President Joe Biden's reference to Chinese leader Xi Jinping as a "dictator," while Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen stressed the critical importance of the two rival powers maintaining relations despite their disagreements.

Biden's remarks at a 2024 reelection fundraiser Tuesday opened a new rift just after Secretary of State Antony Blinken concluded a visit to Beijing that was meant as a step toward stabilizing ties and improv-

ing communications with China.

Biden called the Chinese president a dictator, de-

picted him as out-of-touch during last winter's tumult over a Chinese spy balloon, and dismissed China

as having "real economic difficulties."

China's embassy in Washington said it had delivered a formal protest, with Chinese Ambassador Xie Feng telling senior White House and State Department officials Wednesday that Washington "should take earnest actions to undo the negative impact" of what Biden said or "bear all the consequences."

"With the latest irresponsible remarks about China's political system and its top leader, people cannot help but question the sincerity of the U.S. side" in seeking to stabilize relations, the embassy statement said.

"The Chinese government

and people do not accept any political provocation against China's top leader and will resolutely respond."

The diplomatic dispute with China comes as Biden hosts Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a lavish state visit where a central theme will be a shared wariness of China.

As an official government-to-government communication, the ambassador's message to the Biden administration carries more weight than the critical comments made a day earlier by a Chinese government spokesperson to reporters. □



U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen delivers her speech at the U.S. embassy to France, ahead of the Global Climate Finance conference, Thursday, June 22, 2023 in Paris.

Associated Press

Widow of slain Haitian president files lawsuit against suspects

By **DÁNICA COTO** and **JOSHUA GOODMAN**
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Attorneys for the widow of slain Haitian President Jovenel Moïse filed a lawsuit Thursday in Florida against those accused in his assassination, which is still under investigation.

The lawsuit, which was first shared with The Associated Press, seeks unspecified damages for Moïse's family and a trial by jury in a push to hold the defendants responsible for the president's death.

"Whatever assets are out there, we will make sure these people will pay," attorney Paul Turner told the AP.

The lawsuit was filed nearly two years after the July 7, 2021 assassination of Moïse, who was shot a dozen times at his private home in an attack that also seriously injured his wife, Martine Moïse. More than 40 people have been arrested in the case, including a former Haitian senator, an ex-government official who worked at an anti-corruption agency and 18 former soldiers from Colombia.



Haiti's President Jovenel Moïse walks with his wife Martine to the National Palace after being sworn-in, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti Feb. 7, 2017.

Turner said he believes there are more people involved in the presidential assassination who have not been identified.

"We believe there are deep pockets or political power behind this," he said. Eleven suspects are being held in U.S. federal prison as Turner lamented that the case is languishing in Haiti, where four judges

appointed to oversee the investigation have been dismissed or resigned for personal reasons.

One judge previously told the AP that his family asked him not to take the case because they feared he would be killed. Another judge stepped down after one of his assistants died under murky circumstances.

Turner noted that while the U.S. government has kept him and Moïse's family abreast of developments in the case, the Haitian government has not shared any information with them, including the inventory of personal assets that belonged to Moïse and his family that local authorities seized after he was killed.

"We would like to see more

transparency," he said.

A spokesperson for Haiti's Justice Ministry did not respond to a message seeking comment.

The lawsuit filed at a Miami circuit court accuses some of the suspects of causing the president's death and serious injury to his wife, Martine Moïse, who was shot multiple times.

It also alleges 11 other counts including battery, assault, civil conspiracy and intentional infliction of emotional distress, stating that "defendants engaged in extreme and outrageous conduct in conspiring to torture and assassinate President Moïse.

"The implausible goal upon assassinating President Moïse in cold blood was for the co-conspirators to install their own kangaroo government which would then summarily pardon the assassins. Setting aside the sheer insanity of their end game, the assassins succeeded in part," the lawsuit stated.

Eleven of the 12 people named in the suit remain in U.S. federal prison, except for one who is under house arrest. □

Associated Press

Head of U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees warns of service cuts

By **ABBY SEWELL**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees said Tuesday that without a new injection of funding, it is "likely or highly likely" that the agency will not be able to deliver some services or

pay salaries by the fall. UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said at a press conference in Beirut that the agency responsible for services to Palestinian refugees has been facing a shortfall of \$150 million to \$200 million annually in recent years.

Donors at a conference earlier this month pledged \$115.2 million, of which only \$13.2 million were new funds significantly less than the \$300 million the agency had called for to keep its programs running through the end of the year.

Those programs include health and education services and, in some cases, cash assistance to families in Syria, Lebanon, the Israeli-occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and Jordan.

While he acknowledged that the agency's funding woes have become "almost a broken record," Lazzarini warned donors not to "take for granted the ability of UNRWA to muddle through."

In Lebanon, which has been reeling from an un-

precedented economic crisis since 2019, some 93% of Palestinian refugees in the country now live in poverty. The worsening economic situation in the country has driven many to take to the sea in often-deadly attempts to reach Europe. Lazzarini said that when the agency recently advertised for 14 sanitation workers in Lebanon's refugee camps, it got 37,000 applicants, including many holding university degrees. "This shows how little avenues Palestinian refugees have here when it comes to job opportunities," he said. Lazzarini said the international community needs to have a "proper, honest" discussion about what the agency's future role should be in the absence of a political solution to the Israeli-

Palestinian conflict that would mean the end of its mandate.

"Next year we will be marking the 75th year of an agency, which was supposed to be a temporary agency," Lazzarini said. "And at the same time, it seems we have never, ever been further away from a lasting and fair political solution."

UNRWA was founded in the wake of the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 to serve hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled or were forced from their homes. Today, their numbers have grown to some 5.9 million people, most in the Gaza Strip and Israeli-occupied West Bank, as well as neighboring countries in the Middle East. □



UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini speaks during a news conference in Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Associated Press

The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However,



Alonso de Ojeda

Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curaçao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta

men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Sava-

neta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Duffi" Kock.



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the

United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

"This is work for which you must have a lot of respect. Circus as such implies a lot of risk, we have to give all of ourselves, we need to be in a physical state where you cannot stop training, there needs to be steadfastness; but if you go past the



limit, your body cannot handle it. It seems that during this tour we went over the limit and Diego was injured right when we had to go sign up for the next part of the tour with America's Got Talent. That was frustrating," Yamila explained.

Thanks to their performance in America's Got Talent, they received a lot of offers. However, before that they travelled to Hungary, to the Budapest Circus Festival, and afterwards they decided to return to and remain in Aruba to show their talents up close at home.

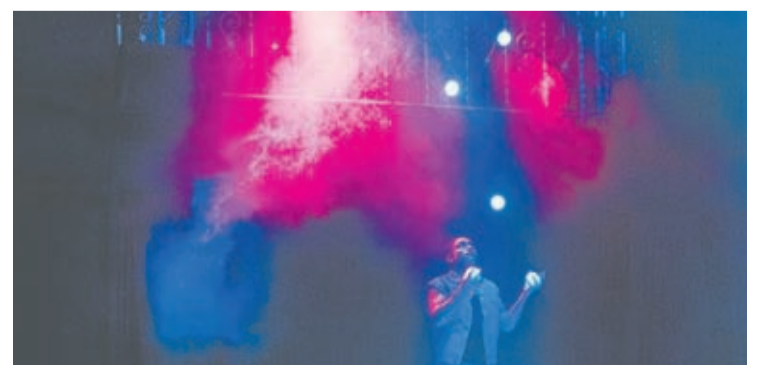
Future projects

Next month in July the group is travelling to Italy to perform at the show "Tu si que vales", and in August they are travelling to France for the program "La France a un Incroyable Talent", completing their travels in November in China, to perform at the Wuqiao International Circus Festival.

Even so, "these are short tours of maximum two weeks, because we are committed to our show in Aruba," Yamila explained.

Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rccaruba. □



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Distinguished Visitors and a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. These great honorees were respectively honored with certificates acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love to the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

- Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors of Aruba Mr. Vernon & Mrs. Annamarie Townsend from Pennsylvania, United States.

Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba Mrs. Lynne Bright from Florida, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort bestowed the certificates to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, and as their home-away-from-home.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to these honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy



Island". We are thankful to have such wonderful visitors after all these years!

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were: Our honeymoon celebration.

Aruba's friendly, kind, & happy people.

Aruba's warm consistent weather all year round.

"Aruba's variety of restaurants to choose from!"

Aruba's white sandy beaches. ☐



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Aruba to me

do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Neil, Jo & Luke Marlow** from Northampton, United

Kingdom.

They wrote to us saying; "Aruba to me is our favourite place in the world and where we dream of returning every year.

We first visited the island in 2005, coming back the following year to get married and have recently returned to introduce our son to the beautiful island and to celebrate our anniversary and retake our wedding photos."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!☐

Episode 6

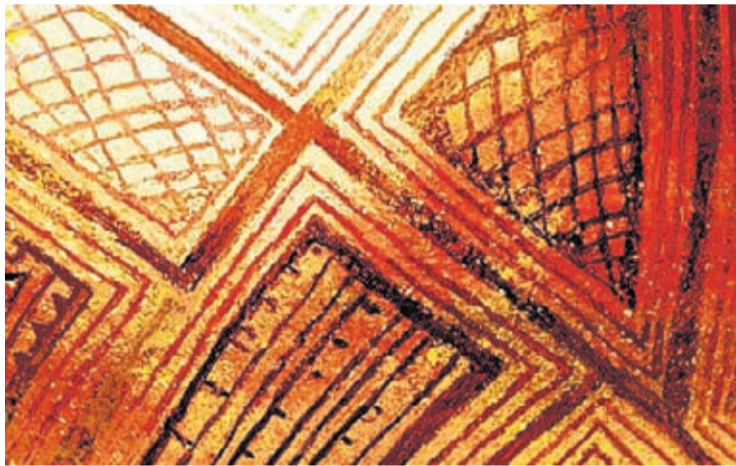
The Caquetios of Cayciba- Rock Island Agro Ceramists

Dabauroid pottery

As mentioned in our last episode, we call these Ceramic Amerindians, after the specific style of their pottery and their anagogic or mystical ceramic decorations. Such pottery was excavated the first by archaeologists near Dabajuro, a city and municipality in Southwestern Falcón State of Venezuelan mainland. Which gave the Latinized name to distinguish its handsome and well elaborated pottery as can be seen exposed in our Archaeological Museum in Oranjestad, the pearl of our capital city.

Another important category is formed by the very large vessels. These have been found in association with burials, but most probably they were also used intensively in every -day-life to store large quantities of liquids, seeds and roots. All pots and vessels are formed by hand (no use of potter's wheel) in a coiling technique. The clay is tempered with crushed quartz particles. The larger size vessels demonstrate the mastery and Excellency of the Dabajuro potters: it is difficult to fire such a large vessel in a simple oven: as soon as temperature differences develop within the oven, such vessels will crack.

The decorated pottery is thinner and of a very fine quality. Two main decoration techniques have been used: painted designs and applique modeling. The painted parts are mainly darker as compared to the lighter-background or col-



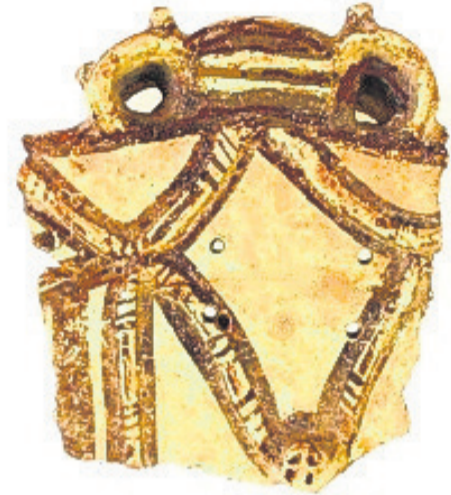
or of the vessel. Colors as brown, reddish brown, red and black were used.

The other decoration technique is modeling, ranging from simple motifs as corrugated rims, extra applique rings around the rim of the vessel, to complicated ones such as interpreting stylized animal heads, such as frogs, bats, birds, turtles etc. Also human heads, anthropomorphic effigy-vessels and complete stylized animals were produced. It is evident that pottery was very important for the Amerindian of the Ceramic Period. It was not

only used for different daily uses, as mentioned above, but it also was used in burial practices, agro-religious as well as shamanic ceremonies. We conclude from this evidence that it had a very important place in the preparation of food and the ritual, symbolic, and religious life of the Dabajuroids.

Caquetio ceramic sites

The ceramic period's sites of the Island are distinguished from other groups by the occurrence of pottery shreds in a vast quantity and the structural architecture of their dwell-



ings. The criteria are to be precise which sites are Pre-ceramic and how to distinguish these from the Agro-ceramic tribe's sites. In spite of these problems 58 sites in total have been classified as Ceramic Period sites. In the number of sites that had an open hearth burning during the Ceramic period (ca 1000-1515 AD). While probably 2 stone exploitation sites were perhaps also used by the Pre-ceramic Period people which should be included in this time frame, and 6 sites that have Ceramic Period and Colonial artifacts. The latter 6 are also considered as Colonial Amerindian Period sites. Predominant within the archaeological record are three sites: Tanki Flip inland East Aruba, Santa Cruz inland Central Aruba and Savaneta at coastal South-West Aruba. These sites are situated more or less on one straight line to each other within a distance of 6.8 km between Tanki flip and Santa Cruz and 8 km respectively between St. Cruz and Savaneta. Surface findings and excavation production in the subsoil of these sites suggest that all three were large, permanently inhabited villages for considerable periods of times.

Large-scale excavations between 1974 and 1976 yielded hundreds of post-

holes and other features at Santa Cruz and Savaneta, respectively 5000 postholes and other features. Tanki Flip site was excavated in 1995; excavations in the north part of this site resulted in the find of larger oval structures and smaller round ones. Such quantity of posthole concentrations suggest long periods of permanent inhabitation.

These are the three large villages, and only 2 sites are classified in the medium category: Tanki Lender and Parkietenbos-west. The extent and density of finds is considerable but less than the three earlier discussed sites. They are interpreted as permanent settlements for at least some decades by a not very small population.

Parkietenbos-W is an exception within the group of 5 large/relatively large terrains. This site only yielded undecorated, relatively coarse pottery up to now. All four other terrains evidenced appreciable quantities of Dabajuro decorated pottery.

If you have liked our stories we recommend you to follow us next week for the following episode or book your personal Etnia Nativa experience and take it home with you. □



Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans

and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cucularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main

threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigro-*



nuchalis)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks.

The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/>



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Light pastries
- 6 Jazz genre
- 11 Be in accord
- 12 Visibly shocked
- 13 Andean nation
- 14 Game piece
- 15 Otherwise
- 17 Wallet bills
- 18 Throws in
- 20 Greedy
- 22 Go bad
- 23 Understood
- 26 Tusk stuff
- 28 Chef's need
- 29 Bad point
- 31 Ball support
- 32 Bard's river
- 33 Hourglass fill
- 34 Cost of a hand
- 36 Granny, for one
- 38 Planet circlers
- 40 Bakery output
- 43 Final letter
- 44 Calliope need
- 45 Stopwatch button
- 46 Rash

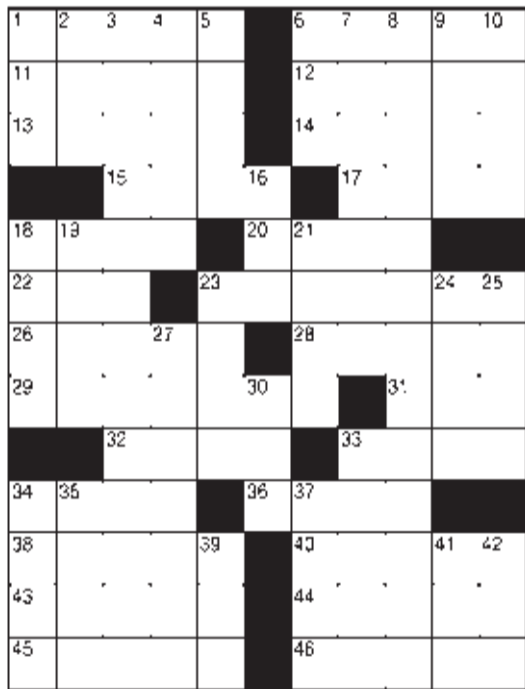
DOWN

- 1 Ocean off Cal.
- 2 "That's gross!"
- 3 Southern dish
- 4 Chops down
- 5 Drops in on
- 6 Ball club
- 7 Selfish one
- 8 Steak sides, sometimes
- 9 Door sign
- 10 Signing needs
- 16 Corn helping
- 18 Parched



Yesterday's answer

- 19 Pigeon's cousin
- 21 Expansive
- 23 Pita sandwich
- 24 Tied
- 25 Title page
- 27 Vindictive one's quest
- 30 Printing need
- 33 In a way, informally
- 34 Monet's "— and Psyche"
- 35 Iditarod end
- 37 Bygone auto
- 39 Got off one's feet
- 41 Parch item
- 42 Author Tan



6-23

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-23

CRYPTOQUOTE

P T T P I I U K I B T U O K W B I
D F K F T P E T V R J U F E I
C S W R I — I I R I V F L I I

E I V V I V I I

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ALL GROWN-UPS WERE ONCE CHILDREN ... BUT ONLY FEW OF THEM REMEMBER IT. — "THE LITTLE PRINCE." BY ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPERY

Google backs creation of cybersecurity clinics with \$20 million donation

By GLENN GAMBOA
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Free medical clinics and legal aid clinics, where college students and their instructors help their communities while also learning more about their professions, are now commonplace. Google hopes to add cybersecurity clinics to that list.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai pledged \$20 million in donations on Thursday to support and expand the Consortium of Cybersecurity Clinics to introduce thousands of students to potential careers in cybersecurity, while also helping defend small government offices, rural hospitals and nonprofits from hacking. Pichai said the new initiative addresses both the rising number of cyberattacks up 38% globally in 2022 and the lack of candidates trained to stop them. "Just as technology can create new threats, it can also help us fight them," Pichai said, announcing the commitment at Google's Washington offices. "Security was critical to the work I did early in my Google career, including when we built our Chrome browser. Today, it's core to everything we do, and the current inflection point in AI is helping take our efforts to the next level."

The tech giant launched the Google Cybersecurity Certificate program last month to help prepare people for entry-level cybersecurity jobs. It also partnered with universities in New York on a research program to create learning and career opportunities across the cybersecurity sector. "Making sure



Google CEO Sundar Pichai speaks to college students about strengthening the cybersecurity workforce during a workshop at the Google office in Washington, Thursday, June 22, 2023.

Associated Press

we protect and safeguard both the consumer services and the enterprises services we provide is foundational to the company, which is why we treat it treated as such," Pichai told The Associated Press in an interview after the announcement. "We've been building security from the ground up for a long time and training to innovate and stay ahead."

Google's announcement had support from Congressional members on both sides of the aisle. Republican Rep. Jay Obernolte of California said addressing cyber threats is essential to the country's economic competitiveness as well as national security. He added that China will likely produce twice as many computer science students with doctoral degrees this year than the United States. "We need to incentivize students to pursue careers in fields like cybersecurity to reverse that trend," he said. "We must all embrace the idea of becoming life-long learners."

Rep. Joaquin Castro of Texas said Google's initiative

helps democratize cybersecurity, providing more employment opportunities and more protection to those not located in Silicon Valley.

"Small businesses literally can lose hundreds of thousands of dollars every year," Castro said. "I'm grateful to Google for building on their commitment to support the growth of a workforce necessary to do everything from securing critical infrastructure in local communities to bolstering our national security."

Pichai said there are currently more than 650,000 open cybersecurity jobs and there is a need for a diverse workforce to address the issue.

"We have seen this in the past when we've gone to communities and open data centers in rural communities," he said. "It creates a spark. It inspires more people... These are catalyzing moments."

Justin Steele, director of Google.org, the company's philanthropic arm, said the initiative appealed to his team because it seeks projects where the funding can spawn change on multiple levels.

"It's a challenge," Steele said. "But there's a huge opportunity here."

Steele anticipates the cybersecurity clinics will have students help small organizations that lack their own technology departments with threat assessments and installing defenses. □

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Climate change leads to growing risk of mosquito-borne viral diseases

By JAN M. OLSEN
Associated Press
COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — European Union officials warned Thursday there is a growing risk of mosquito-borne viral diseases such as dengue and chikungunya in Europe due to climate change. The European Center for Disease Prevention and Control said that because Europe is experiencing a warming trend, with heat waves and flooding becoming more frequent and severe, and summers getting longer and warmer, the conditions are more favorable for invasive mosquito species such as *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti*.

The Stockholm-based agency said in a report that *Aedes albopictus* is a known vector of chikungunya and dengue viruses and has been establishing itself farther north and west in Europe. The other mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, known to transmit dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya, zika and West Nile viruses, has been established in Cyprus since 2022 and may spread to other European countries.

A decade ago, the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito was established in eight European countries, with 114 regions affected. This year, the mosquito is established in 13 countries and 337 regions, the ECDC said.

"If this continues, we can expect to see more cases and possibly deaths from diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and West Nile fever," ECDC director Andrea Ammon said. "Efforts need to focus on ways to control mosquito populations, enhancing surveillance and enforcing personal protective measures."

Before, the diseases were imported from abroad, but "now we have domestically acquired cases," Ammon said in an online news conference.



Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District biologist Nadja Reissen examines a mosquito in Salt Lake City, Aug. 26, 2019.

The agency said ways to control mosquito populations include eliminating standing water where mosquitoes breed, using eco-friendly larvicides and promoting community awareness about mosquito control.

To protect themselves, people can use mosquito bed nets, sleep or rest in screened or air-conditioned rooms, wear clothes that cover most of the body and use mosquito repellent, the ECDC said.

It said that raising awareness about diseases transmitted by mosquitoes is essential.

There is no specific treat-

ment for dengue. While about 80% of infections are mild, severe cases can lead to internal bleeding, organ damage and death. Chikungunya fever, a debilitating disease that is suspected of afflicting tens of thousands, was first identified in Africa in 1953. It causes severe pain in the joints but is rarely fatal. There is no vaccine and it is mainly treated with pain medication. Ammon said 1,339 locally acquired cases of West Nile infections, including 104 deaths, were reported in Europe in 2022, the highest number since an epidemic in 2018.

West Nile fever symptoms

can include headache, fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea and fatigue. People with West Nile fever typically recover on their own, although symptoms may last for weeks to months. □

Associated Press



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Dee Snider draws on Long Island childhood in 1st novel 'Frats'

By **WAYNE PARRY**

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) —

Dee Snider is taking a novel approach to life after rock stardom.

The former singer for the '80s glam rock band Twisted Sister just released his first novel, "Frats," about the madness, cruelty and alcohol and testosterone-fueled bravado of the 1970s high school fraternity scene on Long Island, New York, where he grew up.

His debut as a novelist follows his previous stints as a radio disc jockey, TV voiceover artist, Broadway actor, horror film writer and of course the drag-wearing (more about that later) face of the band best known for the hits "We're Not Gonna Take It" and "I Wanna Rock."

"Always something new and interesting; that's key to me," Snider said. "I want to feel challenged."

He got the writing bug coming up with the script for the band's breakthrough 1984 video for "We're Not Gonna Take It" in which a stern father berates his teenage son, who then morphs into Snider and engages in car-



Dee Snider poses for a portrait in Redondo Beach, Calif., on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, to promote his novel "Frats."

Associated Press

toonish takedowns of dear old dad.

"I started to teach myself how to write," he said. "In 1984, everybody was out partying; I was in the dressing room or in the hotel working on writing. I'm not a singer who decided to write a book — or had someone write one for him. I've been laboring away, honing the craft.

"I'm not Vince Neil," Snider said in a swipe at the Mot-

ley Crüe singer. "I'm the guy you saw in Washington (where he testified before the U.S. Senate defending heavy metal against allegations it was violent and dangerous for kids), a guy who can put together a sentence, and express himself."

In his autobiography "Shut Up and Give Me The Mic," Snider learned about the bane of many writers: editors.

His editor wanted 315 pages; Snider had 700 written and wasn't finished.

"They chopped it in half," he said. "I call it 'killing babies.' You have a great section for a book, but you have to remove something." "Frats," which Snider says he wrote without assistance, follows the lives of high school friends who had to navigate the minefields posed by frat boys, the pressure to conform

and the insane risks taken in the name of belonging. The main character, Bobby Kovacs, is loosely drawn from Snider's own high school experiences in Baldwin, New York.

There's even a few hidden Easter eggs that sharp-eyed Twisted Sister fans may spot: The fictional reporter who wrote a story about a heinous crime integral to the plot of the book is named Mark Segall, taking the first name of Twisted Sister's bassist, Mark "The Animal" Mendoza, and the second name of guitarist Jay Jay French, born John Segall. The band playing the high school prom is named Dusk; Kovacs notes that the singer went on to become quite famous. Dusk was Snider's real-life high school band, and their singer did indeed become quite famous.

Snider, 68, made headlines last month when his support of a tweet by Kiss singer Paul Stanley critical of juveniles undergoing sex reassignment surgery led Snider's planned appearance at the San Francisco Pride parade to be canceled by mutual agreement. □

Presto! Rare Maurice Sendak picture story, 'Ten Little Rabbits,' will be published in 2024

By **HILLEL ITALIE**

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

A rare Maurice Sendak picture story, originally a pamphlet for a 1970 museum fundraiser, will be coming out in book form next year.

HarperCollins Publishers announced Thursday that Sendak's "Ten Little Rabbits" is scheduled for Feb. 6. "Ten Little Rabbits" is a "count-along picture book," according to HarperCollins, about a boy magician named Mino and his magic hat. Sendak sketched out Mino and the hat in black and white, while filling in the rabbits in yellow and blue among

other colors.

"Maurice's black and white line drawings have a playfulness and charm that stand up to his glorious full-color artwork in a way that is uniquely their own," Antonia Markiet, editorial director of HarperCollins Children's Books, said in a statement.

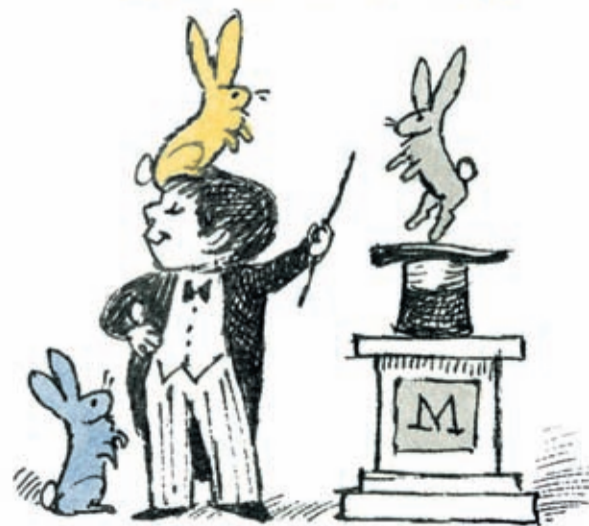
Sendak conceived the pamphlet for the Philadelphia-based Rosenbach Museum, where he became a trustee in 1973 and later served as honorary president. For decades he left the artwork of such classics as "Where the Wild Things Are" and "In The Night Kitchen" at the mu-

seum, which returned his work to Sendak's estate in 2014, two years after he died at age 83.

HarperCollins acquired the 32-page book from the not-for-profit Maurice Sendak Foundation. Sendak's original pamphlet, just 3.5 x 2.5 inches, has been enlarged to 7 x 9 inches. Used editions of the original "Ten Little Rabbits," published by the museum, are available on the Internet for \$50 and higher. The new release has a list price of \$19.95.

"Little Mino the Magician is able to conjure up magic with the wave of his wand, much like Maurice himself could with his pen. □

MAURICE SENDAK TEN LITTLE RABBITS



This image released by HarperCollins Children's Books shows cover art for a rare Maurice Sendak picture story, "Ten Little Rabbits," originally a pamphlet for a 1970 museum fundraiser, will be coming out in book form on Feb. 6.

Associated Press

NHLPA launches a new program to help players prepare for life outside of hockey

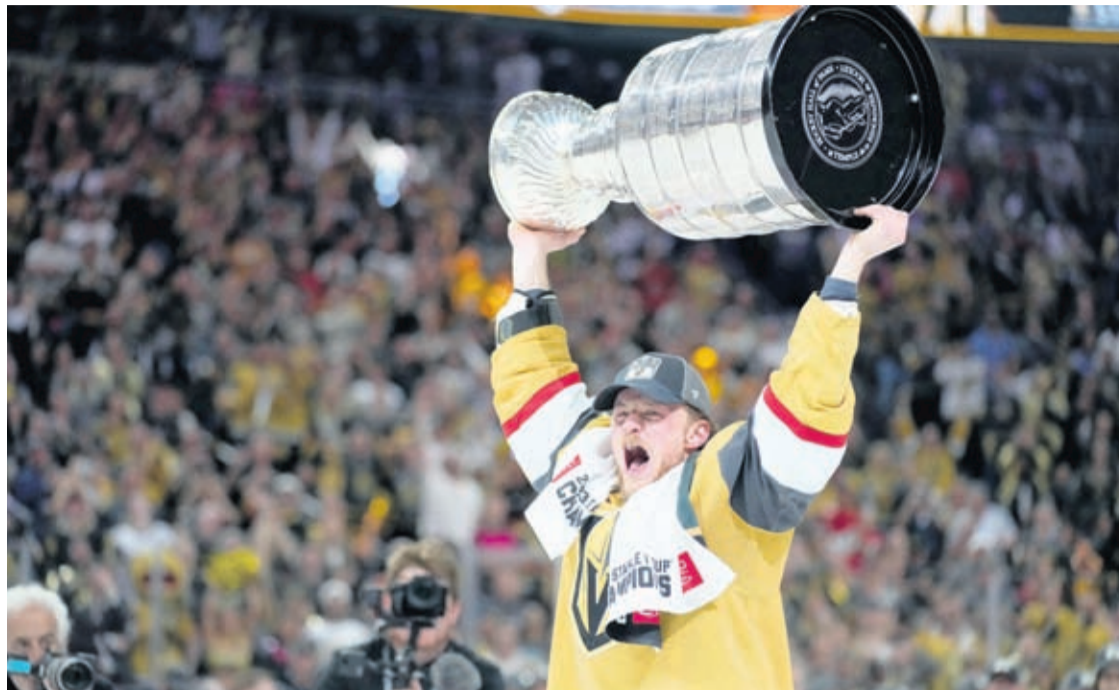
By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writers

Early in his time in the NHL, Darnell Nurse says he did not notice a lot of players talking about what to do after hockey. Going into his ninth season, the chatter is now normal.

"People are curious as to what there is outside the game and what you can do to prepare yourself," Nurse said.

Plenty of players have taken it upon themselves to prepare for the future, like Zdeno Chara getting his real estate license and others finishing college degrees or exploring business opportunities. The NHL Players' Association on Thursday launched a program that gives its members the chance to do a personality analysis and delve into real estate, business or other avenues while still in the league. The hope is to help them develop interests outside of hockey while playing and ease the transition to life afterward.

"It's something that's been missing a little bit," veteran center Lars Eller told The Associated Press. "It's kind of well known that one of the struggles for a professional athlete is the transition on to the next thing once he's done with his professional career. And this platform helps you with that transi-



Vegas Golden Knights center Jack Eichel (9) skates with the Stanley Cup after the Knights defeated the Florida Panthers 9-3 in Game 5 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in Las Vegas.

tion, and it's something you can start even while you're still playing so you can sort of hit the ground running once you're done."

New union boss Marty Walsh made helping former players one of his top priorities. His arrival in March coincided with a process two years in the making, after player feedback indicated the desire for more assistance outside of hockey.

The result is the NHLPA UNLMT program. Retired defenseman-turned-psychologist Jay Harrison is available to do an assessment, and players can get

involved with companies ranging from Money Management International to The Second City comedy and improv theater and institutions like the University of Florida and Stanford's graduate school of business. Former goaltender Rob Zepp, who's spearheading the program as the union's director of strategic initiatives, said an extensive survey provided the building blocks for something that was designed to be 1-on-1 and customized for players to figure out what might interest them.

"What we've seen so far

it really runs the gamut: anything from enhancing one's personal brand to starting a podcast to taking these certificate-level courses in real estate, in entrepreneurship, in business, in leadership, communication skills, networking skills," Zepp said. "We have players that are interested in or are currently pursuing commercial real estate avenues or farming ventures or construction."

Eller, Nurse and Buffalo captain Kyle Okposo are among the players who have tried UNLMT so far. Okposo has already gradu-

Associated Press

ated from Stanford's business leadership program, while Eller has spoken with Harrison and taken some of the courses offered.

"They're not waiting until people's careers are over," said Nurse, who is still in his prime at 28. "It's something that you can dip your feet into and grab a hold of while you're still playing and giving you resources and opportunities to kind of figure out what you want to do." Zepp got a degree from the University of Waterloo and an MBA from the University of Liverpool the old-school way tapes and textbooks sent by mail and tests taken in front of a proctor while playing mostly in the minors and Europe before before 10 games with Philadelphia in 2014-15. He felt like having something to study made him a better goalie and understood there was plenty of idle time on the road.

"We, as players, we have not a lot of freedom once the season is starting but we do have a lot of free time," said Eller, who scored the Stanley Cup-winning goal for Washington in 2018 and is a pending free agent at 34. "It's a huge positive if you have something else that you can take your mind off of hockey and do something productive with that time." □

Upset losses in 2nd round for Sabalenka and Gauff at the Berlin Open

BERLIN (AP) — Second-ranked Aryna Sabalenka and seventh-ranked Coco Gauff had upset losses to Russian players in the second round of the Berlin Open on Thursday.

Sabalenka, the Australian Open champion from Belarus, was beaten 6-2, 7-6 (2) by Veronika Kudermetova despite improving after an error-strewn start. Gauff lost 6-4, 6-0 to Ekaterina Alexandrova.

"For me it's very important to play like that today," Kudermetova said. "I always believe in myself. I know I can play really well, and I

always believe."

Both Sabalenka and Gauff were playing their first tournament on grass and their first since the French Open while their Russian opponents reached the final of the grass-court Libema Open in the Netherlands on Sunday, which Alexandrova won.

They will now have a rematch in Berlin for a place in the semifinals against either Caroline Garcia or Petra Kvitova.

Gauff had the edge early on with a 3-1 lead in the first set before losing 11 of the next 12 games as Alexan-

drova dominated.

"Maybe the score looks easy, but it's never like that because she played amazing," said Alexandrova, who won her seventh straight match. "I needed to stay focused during every single point to keep it that way. I'm just hoping I can keep this form as long as I can."

Players from Russia and Belarus are returning to Wimbledon next month after they were barred last year following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Maria Sakkari joined Garcia and Kvitova as one of only

three seeded players in the quarterfinals as she beat Aliaksandra Sasnovich 6-2, 6-1 in barely an hour. Sakkari next plays Marketa

Vondrousova, who advanced when her opponent Jule Niemeier retired while losing 6-3, 6-5 after injuring her wrist in a fall. □



USA's Coco Gauff in action against Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova during the women's singles round of 16 tennis match at the WTA tour in Berlin, Thursday, June 22, 2023.

Associated Press

Wizards trading Porzingis to Celtics in 3-team deal with Smart headed to Grizzlies, AP sources say

By **NOAH TRISTER** and **KYLE HIGHTOWER**

AP Sports Writers

The Washington Wizards have agreed to trade center Kristaps Porzingis to the Boston Celtics as part of a three-team trade that also includes Marcus Smart heading to the Memphis Grizzlies, two people with knowledge of the deal said Thursday morning.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the agreements hadn't been announced. The trade comes with Porzingis accepting his player option for next season.

The deal also includes the Grizzlies acquiring Smart, the 2022 Defensive Player of the Year, from Boston in exchange for first-round draft picks in 2023 and 2024. ESPN reported the Wizards are also receiving guard Tyus Jones from Memphis, and forwards Mike Muscala and Danilo Gallinari and a second-round pick this year from Boston.

The Celtics add the 7-foot-



Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart, center, looks to pass past Washington Wizards center Kristaps Porzingis, left, and forward Rui Hachimura, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Oct. 30, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

3 Porzingis after they lost in seven games to Miami in the Eastern Conference finals. Porzingis is coming off a solid season in Washington in which he averaged a career-high 23.2 points per game along with 8.4 re-

bounds. Most importantly, he stayed healthy enough to play in 66 games, his most since 2016-17 when he was with the New York Knicks. Porzingis' departure completes a swift breakup of Washington's core af-

ter the Wizards agreed to trade Bradley Beal to Phoenix, and Kyle Kuzma declined his option. Washington has missed the playoffs the past two seasons and is now clearly in a rebuilding mode under new team

president Michael Winger. Smart has played in Boston all nine of his NBA seasons, was its longest-tenured player and one of the strongest presences in the locker room. He also ranks fourth on the franchise's career lists for 3-pointers (911) and assists (2,700). His departure leaves the Celtics with Derrick White and reigning Sixth Man of the Year Malcolm Brogdon as the top two candidates to replace Smart.

Smart brings much needed experience to a young Memphis team that needs help at point guard following the announcement of Ja Morant's 25-game suspension for next season. Smart also brings postseason experience to the Grizzlies, who have won only one playoff series despite finishing second in the West the past two seasons.

The Celtics reached the NBA Finals in 2022, but were unable to make it back this season despite their talented tandem of Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown. □



Minnesota Twins starting pitcher Joe Ryan (41) is doused with water after pitching a complete-game shutout to defeat the Boston Red Sox 6-0 in a baseball game Thursday, June 22, 2023, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

By **MIKE COOK**
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Joe Ryan pitched a three-hitter for Minnesota's first complete-game shutout in five years, Byron Buxton became the first player in at least nine seasons to hit a pair of 460-foot home runs in a game and the Twins beat the Boston Red Sox 6-0 Thursday.

Ryan (8-4) pitched his first complete game in 47 big league starts, striking out nine, walking none and facing no more than four batters in an inning. He had not pitched a complete game since 2018 for Cal State, Stanislaus.

Last Friday, Ryan allowed a season-high six runs against Detroit that raised his ERA in June to 5.03.

Ryan pitches Twins first complete-game shutout in 5 years, 6-0 win over Red Sox

Buxton hit a 466-foot home run in the first inning and a 465-foot drive in the third, his ninth multi-homer game and first since June 10 last year. He is the first player with two 460-foot homers since Statcast started tracking in 2015.

Buxton is 5 for 11 with three homers and a double in his last three games after going 1 for 34 with 17 strikeouts in his prior 10 games. He has 13 home runs this season.

Minnesota got back to .500 at 38-38 and leads the AL Central.

After scoring 50 runs during a six-game winning streak, Boston has lost two in a row as Minnesota salvaged a series split.

Carlos Correa homered to the second deck in left field off Justin Garza (1-1), making his first career start as the Red Sox opener. Two bat-

ters later, Buxton hit a ball to the third deck, 3 feet shy of his longest career home run. Buxton's second home run landed in the second deck above the bullpens, a rarity at Target Field, and boosted the lead to 5-0 in the third inning.

Brandon Walter, a 26-year-old left-hander recalled from Triple-A Worcester, gave up Buxton's home run. He allowed three earned runs and six hits in 6 2/3 innings in his major league debut.

PAIR OF FIRSTS

In his first career start, Boston SS David Hamilton singled in the eighth for his first big league hit.

RED SOX ROSTER CHANGES

Boston C Reese McGuire (right oblique strain) went on the 10-day injured list and the contract of C Caleb Hamilton was selected

from Worcester. OF Alex Verdugo was placed on the bereavement list and INF Yu Chang (hamate fracture) was transferred to the 60-day IL. The Red Sox also acquired RHP Tayler Scott from the Dodgers for cash and transferred RHP John Schreiber to the 60-day IL.

KEUCHEL JOINS TWINS

Former American League Cy Young Award winner Dallas Keuchel has agreed to a minor league contract with Minnesota. The 35-year-old left-hander was 2-9 with a 9.20 ERA in 14 starts last year with the Chicago White Sox, Arizona Diamondbacks and Texas Rangers. A two-time All-Star and 2015 AL Cy Young Award winner, Keuchel is 101-91 with a 3.98 ERA in 257 starts and 11 relief appearances. □